

Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20510

July 15, 2016

568

The Honorable Tom Wheeler
Chairman
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street, S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20554

Dear Chairman Wheeler:

We write to ask for your consideration of the relief requested by Plateau Telecommunications, Inc. (Plateau) in its Petition for Waiver and Modification of Certain Commission Rules Regarding Mobility Fund Phase I Support.

Many of our rural communities in New Mexico lack reliable and affordable mobile broadband access. However, Plateau has served rural customers on the high plains of eastern New Mexico for six decades. In 2012, Plateau successfully bid in the Commission's Auction 901 for Mobility Fund Phase I support. The 2012 Mobility Fund auction awarded one-time support to help close gaps in wireless coverage across the country. Plateau used this Mobility Fund support to deploy a 4G mobile broadband network to previously unserved rural areas in eastern New Mexico.

According to Plateau's petition, Plateau had to abandon plans to build out to all the areas covered in the Mobility Fund award. Plateau thus seeks reimbursement for only those areas where it did bring new wireless service pursuant to its Mobility Fund award. Based on Plateau's petition, Plateau ultimately transferred its mobile wireless network to another carrier due to unanticipated challenges in competing with nationwide carriers in the provision of mobile services.

We respectfully request that you consider and act on Plateau's petition promptly. Thank you for your consideration within your rules and guidelines.

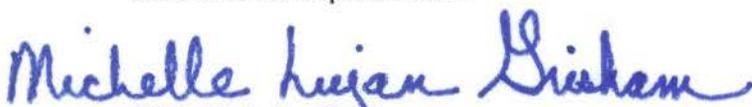
Sincerely,



Tom Udall
United States Senator



Steve Pearce
United States Representative



Michelle Lujan Grisham
United States Representative



Martin Heinrich
United States Senator



Ben Ray Lujan
United States Representative



FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
WASHINGTON

OFFICE OF
THE CHAIRMAN

August 23, 2016

The Honorable Ben Ray Luján
U.S. House of Representatives
2446 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Luján:

Thank you for your letter regarding the petition filed by Plateau Telecommunications, Inc. (Plateau). I appreciate hearing from you.

One of the Commission's most important missions is ensuring that all Americans have access to reliable, affordable mobile broadband service, be it in our nation's largest cities or in rural areas such as the high plains of New Mexico. To accelerate deployment of networks for mobile voice and broadband services, the Commission created the Mobility Fund and set aside \$300 million in one-time support for service providers to extend mobile coverage in unserved areas. The Commission awarded this money through a reverse auction, with winning bidders obligated to meet certain buildout requirements to receive Mobility Fund support..

As you note, Plateau encountered difficulties in meeting all of these obligations and applied for a waiver of certain requirements. The Commission takes these requirements seriously and endeavors to ensure its rules and regulations are met; however, we do recognize that obstacles beyond a licensee's control can arise. The Wireless Telecommunications Bureau is actively examining the record and working diligently to resolve the issues Plateau's petition raises.

I appreciate your interest in this matter. Your views are very important and will be included in the record of the proceeding and considered as part of the Commission's review. Please let me know if I can be of any further assistance.

Sincerely,

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Tom Wheeler



FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
WASHINGTON

OFFICE OF
THE CHAIRMAN

August 23, 2016

The Honorable Tom Udall
United States Senate
531 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Udall:

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August 23, 2016

The Honorable Steve Pearce
U.S. House of Representatives
2432 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Pearce:

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August 23, 2016

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United States Senate
303 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

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Tom Wheeler



FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
WASHINGTON

OFFICE OF
THE CHAIRMAN

August 23, 2016

The Honorable Michelle Lujan Grisham
U.S. House of Representatives
214 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congresswoman Grisham:

Thank you for your letter regarding the petition filed by Plateau Telecommunications, Inc. (Plateau). I appreciate hearing from you.

One of the Commission's most important missions is ensuring that all Americans have access to reliable, affordable mobile broadband service, be it in our nation's largest cities or in rural areas such as the high plains of New Mexico. To accelerate deployment of networks for mobile voice and broadband services, the Commission created the Mobility Fund and set aside \$300 million in one-time support for service providers to extend mobile coverage in unserved areas. The Commission awarded this money through a reverse auction, with winning bidders obligated to meet certain buildout requirements to receive Mobility Fund support..

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